

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Miles City Field Office

Prairie County Projects 2013
Range Improvement Project

Environmental Assessment (EA)
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0159-EA

For Further Information Please Contact:

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BLM



LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Corner Well T.15N., R.48E., Sec. 32

Small Well T.15N., R.47E., Sec. 24

Devlin PPL Extension and Reroute T.13N., R.46E., Sec. 12,13&14

Prairie County (All Project)

PROPOSED ACTION: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to design, contract and inspect, upon completion, the drilling and casing of two wells and installation of three pipelines. The permittee would be required to furnish the pumping systems, overflow systems and a minimum of a 1,000 gallon livestock water tank for each watering site. If any portion of the project crosses private or state lands, the permittee will be responsible for contributed funds prior to letting any contract. The BLM would disburse funds for the drilling and casing of the wells and the installation of pipe and apertures for these projects. Drilling depths could range from 250-400 ft depending on the land formations that are encountered. Some blading may occur to access the well locations. The selected routes have been approved by needed specialists. All tailings from the drilling process would be scattered as per contract specifications. Also blading may occur along pipeline routes to ensure proper bury depth of pipe. This would also allow access for maintenance. Water rights would be filed by BLM upon completion of well and tank locations as specified in the cooperative agreement.

Construction activities will not occur between December 1 and March 31 to minimize impacts to wintering big game species, particularly mule deer and antelope. Construction activities will not occur between April 15 and July 15 to minimize impacts to migratory birds and sage/sharp-tailed grouse species and associated nesting activities.

Corner Well #015693: The proposed action is to drill and case a well at the location shown on the attached map. This work will be contracted by the BLM and likely will occur during the summer of 2013. The drill rig will be on the location for one to several days and will access the proposed location by existing two track roads. The approximate depth to water is estimated to be from 250 to 450 feet and the yield is expected to be 5 gallons per minute or more. No additional road work is necessary in order to access the site. Upon completion of the well, the permittees will be responsible for installing a solar pump on this site. A 1000 gallon livestock watering tank will be installed at the site. Future plans include a pipeline from the well to the south to assist wells that are continually producing less water. Any additional tanks would be analyzed through a future NEPA analysis.

Small Well #015689: The proposed action is to drill and case a well at the location shown on the attached Map. This work will be contracted by the BLM and likely will occur during the summer of 2013. The drill rig will be on the location for one to several days and will access the proposed location by existing two track roads. The approximate depth to water is estimated to be from 250 to 450 feet and the yield is expected to be 5 gallons per minute or more. No additional road work is necessary in order to access the site. No tanks would be allowed at the well site or within .25 miles of any hardwood draw. Upon completion of the well, the permittees will be responsible for installing a pump system, utilizing electricity from a nearby power pole. Future actions include pipelines, which will be evaluated at a later date.

Little Sheep PPL Extension: The proposed action is to design, contract, inspect and construct a pipeline at allocation shown on the attached map. The pipeline is approximately 5,900 feet in length and will be constructed with 1 ½ inch HDPE SDR 13.5 pipe on public land. The pipeline will be plowed (ripped) in at the depth of 5 to 6 feet. Contractor will pre-rip the line, and then come back one final time, rip and lay the pipe in the trench. After pipe is set in the ground, the contractor will then dig holes with the backhoe, to assemble curb stop valves, hydrants assemblies, air relief valves and stop and waste valves. The pre-rip is necessary so the contractor will know where large boulders or rock ledges are. If the equipment

cannot pull through these areas the contractor will come back with the backhoe and break through these areas to achieve proper bury depth. At areas where a backhoe is utilized, disturbance will be 15 feet wide. Total disturbance along pipeline route will be approximately 4 feet wide except at points where apertures are installed.

This pipeline will cross public land. Pipeline will end at a windmill site on public lands that no longer produces water. Pipeline will tie into an existing livestock watering tank.

Devlin PPL Extension and Reroute: The proposed action is to design, contract, inspect and construct a pipeline at allocation shown on the attached map. The combined new pipeline (3,800ft) and re-route portion (2,500ft) is approximately 6,300 feet in length and will be constructed with 1 ½ inch HDPE SDR 13.5 pipe on public land. The pipeline will be plowed (ripped) in at the depth of 5 to 6 feet. Contractor will pre-rip the line, and then come back one final time, rip and lay the pipe in the trench. After pipe is set in the ground, the contractor will then dig holes with the backhoe, to assemble curb stop valves, hydrants assemblies, air relief valves and stop and waste valves. The pre-rip is necessary so the contractor will know where large boulders or rock ledges are. If the equipment cannot pull through these areas the contractor will come back with the backhoe and break through these areas to achieve proper bury depth. At areas where a backhoe is utilized, disturbance will be 15 feet wide. Total disturbance along pipeline route will be approximately 4 feet wide except at points where apertures are installed. Devlin PPL Extension will consist of one livestock watering tank in Sec. 12. This tank will be equipped with a float valve. No overflow assembly will be required. Devlin PPL reroute will take place in section 14. Due to natural erosion along this route the pipeline is currently exposed. The re-route will consist of tying into the existing line and plowing in approximately 2,500 ft of new line on stable soils.

Wagon Tongue PPL 2 Ext.: The proposed action is to design, contract, inspect and construct a pipeline at allocation shown on the attached map. The pipeline is approximately 4,400 feet in length and will be constructed with 1 ½ inch HDPE SDR 13.5 pipe on public land. The pipeline will be plowed (ripped) in at the depth of 5 to 6 feet. Contractor will pre-rip the line, and then come back one final time, rip and lay the pipe in the trench. After pipe is set in the ground, the contractor will then dig holes with the backhoe, to assemble curb stop valves, hydrants assemblies, air relief valves and stop and waste valves. The pre-rip is necessary so the contractor will know where large boulders or rock ledges are. If the equipment cannot pull through these areas the contractor will come back with the backhoe and break through these areas to achieve proper bury depth. At areas where a backhoe is utilized, disturbance will be 15 feet wide. Total disturbance along pipeline route will be approximately 4 feet wide except at points where apertures are installed. Wagon Tongue PPL 2 Ext will consist of one livestock watering tank in Sec. 35. This tank will be equipped with a float valve. No overflow assembly will be required.